

ARGUMENTS/REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this Application, in light of the present amendments and the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

This amendment is in response to the Final Office Action mailed on January 12, 2009. Claims 1-14 are pending in the Application. Claims 3 and 7 are amended.

Summarizing the outstanding Office Action, the drawings and the claims were objected to for the reasons stated in the office action. Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claim 1-6 and 9-14 were allowed and Claim 7 and 8 were noted to contain allowable subject matter if rewritten to overcome the outstanding rejection under section 112. The indication of allowed and allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation.

With respect to the drawing objection, Applicants note that the feature "the at least one stiffening rib having a variable section in a longitudinal direction" is already shown in the drawings as, for example, in FIG. 3, and explained in Applicants' specification (see, for example, paragraphs [0047] and [0048]). In particular, FIG. 2 is a radial view and FIG. 3 is a sectional side view along line III-III of FIG. 2, thus FIG. 3 is a sectional view that extends in the longitudinal direction. In addition, as shown in FIG. 3, the section of the rib 16 varies from right to left as shown (i.e., in the longitudinal direction), thus the existence of the angle 50. Reconsideration of the drawing objection is respectfully requested.

As to the rejection of Claim 7 and 8 under section 112, second paragraph Claim 7 has been amended to more clearly recite that the recited distance is a distance from one end of the at least one cavity to the apex in an axial section, said distance being divided by an axial length of the at least one cavity so as to have a non-dimensionalized value ranging from 0.142 to 0.192. Withdrawal of this outstanding rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

The present amendment is submitted in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.116, which after a Final Rejection permits entry of amendments placing the claims in condition for allowance. As the present amendment is believed to overcome the outstanding objections and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, the present amendment places the application in condition for allowance. In addition, the present amendment is not believed to raise new issues since the changes to Claims 3 and 7 merely corrects an informality in Claim 3 and better recites features already claimed previously in Claim 7. It is therefore respectfully requested that 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be liberally construed, and that the present amendment be entered.

Consequently, in view of the above remarks, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance for claims 1-14 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representatives at the below listed telephone number.

US Patent Application No. 10/595,855
Bigi, Manuele et al.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 09-0470.

Respectfully submitted,

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